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LONDON, SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 1892.

MILFORD LANE } STRAND.—No. 546.

THIRD EDITION. "THE PEOPLE" OFFICE. Saturday Evening.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

BEHRING SEA ARBITRATION.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The Senate yesterday evening discussed the Behring Sea Arbitration Treaty in executive session. Mr. Sherman pointed out the advantages which would accrue to the United States from a ready acquiescence in the submission of the question to arbitration, and agreed that Great Britain, by her refusal to consent to the modus vivendi, would be placed in an unenviable light before the world as guilty of double dealing. Other members of the Foreign Relations Committee spoke in a similar sense. The main topic of discussion was, however, a resolution received from the Foreign Relations Committee endorsing the President's attitude in reference to the Behring Sea question, but expressing the belief that the present difficulty will not lead to hostilities.

The correspondence on the Behring Sea question transmitted by President Harrison to the Senate was made public in Washington on Thursday. Lord Salisbury's reply to the note of the State Department includes declarations that he sees no reason for another suspension of sealing this year, that there is no security that the arbitrators will be able to deal with the subject properly as though no provision existed for the settlement of the dispute, thus compelling the United States to act in a like manner and to use all means available to protect from destruction or serious injury the property and rights of jurisdiction long claimed and enjoyed.

REPLY TO LORD SALISBURY.

To this note Mr. Wharton replies by direction of the President, calling attention to the gravity of the matter and the large number of Canadian sealers which had already cleared. He assumes that both governments are sincerely desirous to promote peace, but says that the United States Government cannot ignore its right to destroy seals, and that it does not see how the damages suggested can be recovered, and says that the delay on the part of Great Britain defeats the object of the treaty. In conclusion, Mr. Wharton says that the President will hear with regret that her Majesty's Government continues to assert the right to deal with the subject precisely as though no provision existed for the settlement of the dispute, thus compelling the United States to act in a like manner and to use all means available to protect from destruction or serious injury the property and rights of jurisdiction long claimed and enjoyed.

AMERICAN MEASURES FOR PROTECTION.

With regard to the measures which the United States Government intends to take for the protection of its right in Behring Sea, it is now proposed for the first time to maintain an efficient patrol over the waters within the three-mile limit along the entire Alaska coast north of latitude 55deg. to the Unalak Passages, south of Behring Sea. It is hoped that in this way the sealers will be kept off the coast, and the sealers on the Pribilof Islands will be protected at least to a limited extent from poachers along the coast usually followed by them. Nearly 25,000 seals were killed in these waters in 1891. The revenue vessels Corwin and Albatross have already started on this mission, and will shortly be followed by the Bush and the Bear, and possibly by several United States men-of-war.

THE PARIS DYNAMITARDS.

PARIS, March 25.—The police yesterday arrested two more Anarchists, named Lebadard and Simon. They are supposed to be accomplices of Ravachol, the man who is believed to be one of the chief authors of the recent dynamite outrages, and for whom the police are now searching. In a room occupied by Simon a document was found advising the Anarchists to obtain situations in the houses of the well-to-do class, with the object of poisoning their employers. The *Matin* says that Ravachol is the man who placed the bomb on the staircase of the house in the rue de Valenciennes, and who was the dynamite cartridges from the Soisy Sous Montiers quarry. Lebadard is believed to be the author of the explosion at the Lobau Barracks. A search made by the police at Ravachol's lodgings resulted in the discovery of a bomb already prepared for use.

CANNIBALISM IN QUEENSLAND.

BRISBANE, March 25.—Several cases of cannibalism have lately occurred in the Cairns district of Queensland, and the authorities are now searching for the guilty parties. It is reported that the cannibals are now in the neighbourhood of the Cairns district, and are committing several murders.

MARRIAGES IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

SYDNEY, March 25.—The Legislative Assembly to-day passed the second reading of the Marriage Validation Bill, which legalises marriages despite the absence of a sworn statement by the contracting parties.

SMALL-POX IN BOMBAY.

BOMBAY, March 25.—Small-pox is increasing in Bombay, and fifty-two deaths occurred last week. The distress in the Bombay Presidency shows an improvement, and the number of relief works is decreasing. Prices remain stationary.

ESPIONAGE BY BALLOON.

RUSSIAN POLAND, March 25.—Reports from Russian Poland state that a German spy service in balloons has been organised. A few days ago a large balloon, coming from the German frontier, appeared above the fortress of Kovno. Several shots were fired at it, but without effect, and it managed to return in safety over the frontier. The official journal of Warsaw, the *Warszawski Dziennik*, also states that a large balloon was observed on the 7th March in the neighbourhood of Dombrowa. It was coming from the south-west, and following a north-easterly direction along the Ivangorod-Dombrowa Railway, and in a north-easterly direction. A north-east wind was blowing. The balloon disappeared behind the clouds, but reappeared about forty-five minutes later with a light burning (it was then half-past six in the evening), and following a course directly opposed to the former one. It is presumed that the balloon must have been provided

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FRIDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

LORD MONSIEUR, in calling attention to the stringency of the regulations governing the admission of boys from industrial schools to the Navy, said he did so in the interest of industrial schools. The course adopted by the Admiralty prevented good boys from such schools as the Feltham into the Navy. It was a large number of bad boys from industrial schools. He hoped the Admiralty would see their way clear to relax the stringency of their rules.—Lord Sturges thought that a boy coming from an industrial school was not a degraded class, and that the Admiralty were not objecting to him, but that they were objecting to the fact that he was a boy coming from an industrial school. He hoped the Admiralty would see their way clear to relax the stringency of their rules.—Lord Sturges thought that a boy coming from an industrial school was not a degraded class, and that the Admiralty were not objecting to him, but that they were objecting to the fact that he was a boy coming from an industrial school. He hoped the Admiralty would see their way clear to relax the stringency of their rules.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PAYMENT OF MEMBERS.

MR. JENNINGS, in moving that in consequence of a recent decision of the House, he intended to move, in the event of the motion to-night for the payment of members becoming a question, that every member should be paid in full for his services, said that he was not in favour of the motion, but that he was in favour of the motion.

THE BLACKHEATH MYSTERY.

An inquest will be held in the course of a few days upon the human remains found some weeks ago buried under a laundry at Dartmouth Hill House, Blackheath. The body was found by those of Mrs. Eliza Smith, or Flabell, who disappeared under mysterious circumstances on Christmas Eve, 1870. The bones have been examined, and pronounced to be those of a female. The doctor will be able, at the inquest, to state approximately the time that the body was buried, and the cause of death. It is surmised that if the woman met her death by foul means, the murderer burnt the head in a large furnace used for the purpose of heating the conservatory. It is not now considered probable that the husband of the missing woman will be traced, as he has been lost sight of for seven years.

SUICIDE OF A FARMER.

At Nunetown on Friday a coroner's jury returned a verdict of suicide, whilst temporarily insane in the case of Mr. William Corbett, an inmate of Friars Marston, near Southampton, who shot himself on Wednesday whilst on a visit to his brother at Austrey. The deceased was 35 years old, but had been ailing for some months, having suffered much in his head since an attack of influenza.

ILLNESS OF MR. PICKARD, M.P.

The Press Association understands that the health of Mr. B. Pickard is still in such an unsatisfactory state that the Miners' Federation, of which he was president, recommended that he should take a holiday for a month or two, and enjoy an entire rest during that period from all official duties.

ANOTHER SUICIDE AT PORTSMOUTH.

Henry Thomas Strickland, a naval pensioner, aged 51 years, committed suicide at Portsmouth on Friday by hanging himself in the tower of the Old Prison, and the body was found by the police. The deceased was a member of the Society to the extent of £130. It is stated that the failure of the society played upon his mind. This is the third suicide attributed to the failure.

SUDDEN DEATH IN CHURCH.

Miss Susan Catherine Burke, youngest daughter of the Rev. John Burke, vicar of Ashington, near Letchworth, died during service in the parish church on Friday morning from apoplexy.

A CONSTABLE FINED.

At the Cardiff Police Court, on Friday, a policeman named Gregory was fined 25s, or a month's hard labour, and suspended from duty, for striking a sailor in the Sailors' Home, Cardiff, for giving a character by the head constable. He has been in the force three years.

ARCHDEACON STRATON HAS BEEN CONSECATED AT YORK CATHEDRAL TO THE BISHOPRIC OF SODOR AND MAN.

Colonel Melrose, ex-Mayor of Stockport, died at Heston, Surrey, Manchester, on Friday.

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DAISY HOPKINS SUES THE PRO-PROCTOR OF CAMBRIDGE.

At Ipswich Assizes on Thursday, the Action brought by Daisy Hopkins against the Rev. F. Wallis, Pro-proctor of Cambridge University, for alleged false imprisonment, was commenced. The case was heard by Judge Stirling, and the damages were laid at £1,000. The case had been originally set down for hearing at Norwich, but by consent of the parties, the venue had been changed to Ipswich. Mr. Murphy, Q.C., with Dr. J. W. Cooper, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Kemp, Q.C., with Mr. Robinson, for the defendant. The case was not reached until 4 o'clock. In opening the plaintiff's case Mr. Murphy urged that, while it was important to preserve young men at the University from the dangers incidental to them as regarded the other sex, it was equally important to see that the University should not be

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1025-1026.

"Silver treasure" of the
of Scotland, which was
on twelve tons, and which is now at
to England, before war broke out in
(FROM TARTAN.)
fruit of the Queen, by Winterhalter,
age on the Ministers' Staircase at
in Palace, has been lent by her
for the Cornish Exhibition. It is a
diamond.
announcement that the eldest daughter
and Duchess of Edinburgh is to be
at the first drawing-room is non-
sensical. Marie will not be 17 until
this, and it has not been the custom
of daughters of the Queen to appear
until they have entered their thirtieth
is very doubtful. Indeed, whether
Marie of Edinburgh will make her
at the Court of St. James's. To be
that the duchess will bring out her
giggar at St. Petersburg next winter,
super Frederick and Princess Mar-
russ are to come to England at the
21 month, on a visit to the Queen at
Castell, and they will be present at the
rooms. Princess Louis of Bathe-
mer's youngest sister, Princess Alice,
is expected to arrive on a long visit to
a shortly before her Majesty's depar-
ture from Scotland, which is fixed for May
or William intends to pay a private
England at the end of July. His
will come direct to Cowes in his
the Hohenzollern, and is to stay there
the Queen's Regatta week. The
visit he was entertained by the Queen as
during his trial. His Majesty intends
receiving such a visit to the Queen (better
the Thistle) for the Queen's Cup.
standings appears to have been utterly
appreciate the gravity of the crime
which he committed. He had been
awaiting his trial, he requested that he
be nominated as one of the aldermen of
Dunfermline County Council.

SON'S WATCHES

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the London Patent Full Size, with the
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PIPER PAN.

"L. H. S." writes me a letter in which she complains that her "last" music teacher had six weeks' holiday out of the quarter, and did not make up one of the six missed lessons to her. She asks if the teacher cannot be compelled to make up the missing lessons. I cannot say whether she can compel him to do so, but it is evident that she is, morally, entitled to redress, and would probably obtain it by threatening legal proceedings; but before going to law she had better consult a solicitor.

One of the most shocking of recent events was the untimely death of Mr. Goring Thomas, who on Sunday last threw himself in front of a railway train. A bystander caught hold of Thomas's coat and tried to save him, but in vain. For some months past, Thomas had shown signs of mental disorganisation, and there can be no doubt that he was insane when he sought a horrible death. I had known him for several years, and a more unaffectedly charming friend I never met with. He will be long regretted by all who knew him, especially musicians, who anticipated that the composer of "Emeralds" would contribute many equally admirable works to the repertory of English opera.

The Bach Choir on Tuesday last gave their tenth performance of Bach's splendid "Requiem." The choir, familiarised with the work by frequent repetitions of it, did justice to the fine choral music, and solos were well sung by Mrs. Hutchinson, Miss Hilda Wilson, and Mr. Watkins Mills. As the voice of the tenor singer, who stood out of order, I refrain from mentioning his name.

As I mentioned last week, Robinson has accepted an engagement to give piano-forte recitals in America. I am glad to add that there is a good prospect of his giving similar recitals in England next year.

Miss Jeanne Douste on Monday last gave at St. John's Hall, the first of three Robinson recitals. She is an accomplished pianist, and played Schubert's "Melodie in F. op. 3," and his "Barcarolle in E flat," splendidly. In concerted pieces she was aided by M. Nachter, and Madame Valda sang admirably a selection from "The Demon."

Never shall I forget the night when "The Demon" was produced at the Royal Italian Opera. In the third act the scenery caught fire, and the flames were extinguished by two of the principal performers, who took off their cloaks and fairly conquered the flames.

Sir Charles Hallé has defended himself from the charge of neglecting English music, and has published a catalogue of forty-seven English compositions which have been played at his concerts. His list of English overtures opens with that of "The Bohemian Girl," and closes with the overture to "Marrion." These are distinctly dramatic works, and I am not surprised that they failed to please his audiences.

It is only just to mention that amongst the English works which have been produced by Sir Charles are some by Frederick Bennett, Barnett, Cowen, Sir Arthur Sullivan, and other eminent English composers, but I cannot see that this kind of defence has to do with the remonstrances made in our columns and others, against the absence of English vocal music from the Hallé concerts given in London during the last two years.

Mr. Vert has favoured me with an early copy of the prospectus of the ensuing series of Richter Concerts, which will be given under his management on Monday evening, May 8th, June 12th, and 27th, and on Saturday afternoon, June 4th. In conjunction with Dr. Richter, Mr. Vert has arranged six interesting and attractive programmes, including several valuable additions to the Richter repertory.

The Monday and Saturday Popular Concerts approach their close, and Herr Joachim's engagement will terminate this week. On Monday last his solo was Tartini's celebrated "Trillo del Diavolo," composed about 180 years ago. Tartini declared that the devil appeared to him one day, and played a violin solo of such exquisite beauty that when Tartini awoke he tried in vain to note down, from memory, all the beautiful melodies and ornamentation to which he had listened while asleep. Nevertheless, his "Devil's Sonata" is a charming work, justly popular to this day, and was frequently played in public and private. It is recorded of him that when praised for his fine performances of the "Devil's Sonata," he always replied, "Ah! you should have heard the devil play it!"

OLGA PODRIDA.—At next Monday's Popular Concert Brahms's new clarinet quintet will be performed for the first time in England.—It remains doubtful whether Sir Augustus Harris will arrange performances of German operas (in English) next autumn.

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

At the Teddington Petty Sessions two people were summoned lately for allowing dogs to phase and worry the deer in Bushey Park. In both cases the owners of the dogs had to pay fines of over £2, which was certainly moderate, considering that one of the animals attacked has a dog of the same name. I notice that in the former case the offending party is a lady, who was probably not in the least able to control the dog. We know that very often a dog is much more than a lady can manage but, if such is the case, she should not take him among deer except on a chain. The Bushey Park deer scene in the first act is a full of genuine comicality without horse play. It has been toned down since the first night, but is none the less amusing, rather the reverse. Very diverting, too, is the scene in the second act, in which Roberts pretends to be a girl while being wooed by Miss Broughton. The mimicry of feminine wiles is very clever.

Moreover, he is legitimately funny. Too often he is content to be a droll, but as Captain Crossmore he shows that he can act. A long drunken scene in the first act is full of genuine comicality without horse play. It has been toned down since the first night, but is none the less amusing, rather the reverse. Very diverting, too, is the scene in the second act, in which Roberts pretends to be a girl while being wooed by Miss Broughton. The mimicry of feminine wiles is very clever.

In the same journal I see that an Indian snake has been giving fine sport to two Russian

soldiers who are travelling in India. Three tigers, a leopard, three buffaloes, and a good assortment of sambar, hog-deer, porcupine, and small game form a pretty tolerable mixed bag. But it must be remembered that the party which goes out on one of these big excursions assumes very large dimensions. In this case apparently the jungle was beaten through by a line of sixty elephants, on which, of course, the party were mounted. But for the fact that it was so early in the season the bag of tigers would have been bigger.

A curious case of infection by parrots has occurred at Paris. It ought to be carefully inquired into, for if the facts really are as they appear, it opens up rather an alarming prospect to us. A M. Dubois arrived from Brazil with 500 parrots to sell. On landing he fell ill, but proceeded to Paris in a week. He lodged with a friend of his, turning the parrots loose in a spare room. An epidemic soon broke out among the birds, and he died so violently that only two are left at the present time. One day M. Dubois went into the ground floor of the house and remained there some time. Next day the niece of the man who occupied it fell ill. She soon died, as did also her uncle, the wife of M. Dubois's friend, and one of their daughters. A lady who visited at the house has died, and her husband is despondent. The man with whom M. Dubois lodged is dangerously ill, with two of his daughters. So is a workman in his employ, and two men who bought parrots. That is four dead, and seven seriously ill. It is, perhaps, always as high as in this case the majority of the birds generally die in a few weeks or days.

This story suggests two things to me. First, that it would be extremely advisable for an exhaustive medical inquiry into the case, and into the connection between Brazilian parrots and infectious pneumonia, which was the disease from which they died. Next, people who buy newly imported parrots, whether from Brazil or Africa, are extremely likely to make a very bad thing of it by losing their birds quickly. As I have pointed out before, the manner in which the birds are overcrowded is shocking, and though the mortality is not, perhaps, always as high as in this case the majority of the birds generally die in a few weeks or days.

"Spot," whose dog story I mentioned the other week, kindly gives suggestion which may come in useful to dog-owners. The puppy, being ill with distemper, was wanted to drink beef-tee, but objected. As he is very fond of cheese, his master adopted the expedient of dropping a few pieces into the beef-tee, when he would immediately drink to get them. I am afraid this is not a very good expedient, but would act so sensibly. Happily, he has quite recovered now, but nothing further has come to light as to where he got those mysterious slippers which I wrote about.

I embarked upon a regular wild goose chase, when I asked for correspondents who had noticed Mr. Robinson's wild geese of the 6th of March. Apparently the birds appeared at the end of the metropolis at about the same time on the same day. Their history seems to have been as follows:—At 11.45 Mr. Robinson saw them crossing the Goldhawk-road in a north-easterly direction. Shortly before noon Mr. J. W. East saw them flying in a similar direction over Cressfield-road, Acton. They split up into two V-shaped divisions, and their cries were audible and loud. By 12 o'clock they had reached Leytonstone according to Mr. Cannon, and then apparently were heading straight for Barking Creek. At about the same time a flock (query, one of the divisions from Acton), was seen flying in a south-easterly direction over Croydon. Subsequently between 12.30 and 1.1, a flock flew over Blackheath, being seen by Mr. Croft. It was flying easterly. Where it can have come from, I am at a loss to imagine. I leave the puzzle to my readers.

THE ACTOR.

There is one point on which some of the London managers remain unconvinced, and that is in regard to the way in which "first pieces" should be "put on." Too often this is done in a very perfunctory or unready fashion. I have in my mind two pieces produced within the last few days, "Queer Street," and "The Gaiety," and "Donna Luiza," at the Prince of Wales's; both of them presenting excellent material, but in neither case adequately treated, on the first night, at any rate.

In the case of "Queer Street" the services of the long Mr. Brougham, and Miss Louise Wilmet were useful, and Mr. Minshull was tolerable in a role much out of his line. But the general tone of the performance was amateurish and weak. So, on the whole, was that of "Donna Luiza." In the latter instance, the cast is almost wholly supplied by very young people, clever and attractive young people, but not all yet adequate to such work as this.

By the way, Miss Louise Pounds, who appears in "Donna Luiza," is a sister of Mr. Courtice Pounds, of the Savoy, and has a pleasant voice as well as a pretty face and figure. It seems hard to suggest that first pieces should not give practice to promising young artists like this, but the public has to be considered. It is not fair to the pit and upper circle and gallery that they should be put off with a representation which would not be offered to the stalls and balcony.

Moreover, this sort of thing is not fair to the unhappy authors and composers of first pieces. Often a play is greatly helped by the actors, but sometimes it is damaged, and that fact is not always taken into consideration either by the critics or by the public.

Talking of "Donna Luiza," I am naturally reminded of "Blue-Eyed Susan," the piece which it precedes. I saw this again on Wednesday, and was surprised by the very great improvements that have been made in it. The accession of Miss Phyllis Broughton to the cast is of great value to the opera. She has been sent to America, and has kept of the river when the fish are spawning, items in their programme that ought to meet with general approval.

The Bloomsbury Brothers, meeting at the Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury, last competition for the season on the 20th inst., near Bournehouse. Mr. Fairhead was first with a roach of 1lb. 12oz., and some of the other competitors, Messrs. Newton, T. Davis, J. Stevens, and C. Davis had fish weighing over 1lb. Well done, Bloomsbury Brothers!

I am glad to record the capture of another inveterate poacher, who regards not close times, rod tax, or riparian owners. I allude to a fine dog otter, 3ft. 9in. in length, weighing 21lbs., trapped late on Saturday night by Mr. W. J. Wood, the lockkeeper at Temple Lock, Great Oriel, Wood informs me that he had an arduous customer to deal with, but it was only by a bit of clever strategy that Mr. Otter's course was arrested. This is the eighth otter Mr. Wood has inveighed into his traps, and the third he has taken within the present year. The animal made many nocturnal visits to the picturesque island adjoining the lock, and was coming to an untimely end, and I think anglers fishing

of course, but the arrangements proceed apace. Miss Redden should be well guided with the title part, and Miss Olga Brandon and Mr. Tree are also likely to be well fitted. This, of course, is not the first adaptation of Kingsley's novel that has been made. The pioneer in that respect was Mr. Saville Clarke, who, I believe, had considerable success with his work. Indeed, I understand that she definitely accepted his play. She would have made a picturesque Myrtle.

Miss Brandon's engagement at the Haymarket depends, of course, upon the length of "run," according to Mr. Calmour's "Street" winner. Miss Brandon, I gather, is engaged for the "run" of that piece, and as long as Mr. Calmour claims her services. The same remark applies to the one or two other members of Mr. Calmour's company, whose engagement for future productions elsewhere have been announced.

Mr. C. H. Hawtry proposes to revive "The Private Secretary," in the summer, and for this revival that excellent actor, Mr. Henry Vernon, has been secured for the role of Old Catermole, a part which Mr. Vernon's present gift will enable him to undertake with all requisite realism. Meanwhile, Mr. Vernon will have his colleagues at the Globe who are re-opening. Mr. Arthur Helmore, a young actor who will then make his London debut, and who, I believe, has gained laurels in the country in the very piece, "The Private Secretary," in which Mr. Vernon will be by and by figure.

OLD IZAAK.

The Thames just now requires careful guarding, and the preservation societies have their work cut out for some little time to come. The dace are heading up in great quantities at Teddington, and the trout are on the move. Thames trout fishing begins on Friday next, and the fishermen are anticipating a successful season. Within a few days the last few days, between the water gallery at Hampton Court and Thames Ditton.

The brighter weather, coupled with the closing of the Thames, took a considerable number of anglers last week to the Lea, where, during one of my rambles I came across Mr. President Medcalf, Mr. R. Murphy, Mr. Lucy De Costa, and other angling patriarchs, some of whom had been fishing the Ely House water. Mr. Porter, of the Prince of Wales, had a couple of nice roach, one of which, weighing about 1lb. 12oz., was taken. A 2lb. trout was hooked by another angler, and returned, and several good fish were said to have been seen about, angling well for the coming season, which in the Lea begins with May-day.

The Hartford Angling Preservation Society (meeting at the Railway Hotel, G.E.R., Hartford), of which a considerable number of London anglers are members, put a large quantity of trout fry into their water last week, and I hear, the society is worked by an energetic body of men anxious to do everything possible to preserve the water and increase their sport.

The Cambridge Friendly had a most successful gathering at their club house, Mason's Arms, Titchborne-street, Edgeware-road, W. last week. Mr. D. Morris, who presided, was ably supported by Mr. W. A. Carter, Mr. W. Sutton, and other friends, many of whom contributed to the musical portion of the programme, which was excellent throughout. "Old Izaak" attended, and was pleased to find the good old Cambridge Friendly in such a flourishing condition.

The Piscatorial Society's banquet at the Holborn Restaurant last week proved the success predicted for it, no less than 148 members and friends, including a large number of ladies, sitting down to a sumptuous repast. Mr. K. C. B. Blount, who made the evening's chairman, was ably faced by Mr. Norman F. Harrison, and to them and Mr. W. T. Galloway (hon. sec.) the warmest thanks of the society are due. The music was of the best, the toasts few, and the speeches commendably brief. Messrs. K. S. Fenning, W. H. Brougham, Dr. Starling, J. E. Wheelton, S. C. Harding, and "Old Izaak" were among the list of speakers, and the evening (with which every one was delighted) closed with "Auld Lang Syne."

The two London associations have now held delegate meetings, in each case very largely attended, to formulate their views as to alterations required in the Thames by-law. Mr. C. A. Medcalf (president) presided over the Central Association meeting, and Mr. J. B. Close over that of the Anglers' Association. The question as to the takeable size of fish excited great interest, each committee having recommended 22 inches. The Central Association meeting carried 20 inches, the Anglers' Association 22 inches, the voting in each instance being exceedingly spirited and close. The Central Association leaves the size of roach as it now is; the Anglers' Association raises the standard to 8 inches. I think that the Central Association have done the same. They should also have raised the jack to 22 inches, for a 22-inch jack is only a 3lb. fish, and would do more credit to the angler, than one over so little under. Both associations agree in the prohibition of trailing, the regulation of steam launches, and also that no angler should be allowed to use more than two rods at a time, and then only for different styles of fishing. So far, so good.

Both associations agree that the fence time for all coarse fish other than jack and perch should be the months of April, May, and June, but, strange to relate, the Anglers' Association proposes to close the season on June 15, same as now. In this instance the Central Association takes a wiser course, the close time advocated by them for these fish being the months between February and August. The Central also assent to the abolition of the "dead gill" fishing, and ask that any angler who is found fishing with a dead gill should be fined. This is a very good item in their programme that ought to meet with general approval.

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GENERAL CHATTER, M.P.

I am indebted to a friend at North Kensington for a copy of a local separatist paper, which denies my recent statement that Mr. Frye, the Gladstonian candidate, belongs to the octopus order of traders, that is so cordially detested by small tradesmen—with good reason. Very well, let us test the question by Mr. Frye's own handbills. What do we find? That his firm has twenty-two separate shops in London, and of them better in the most established in Hants and Kent; finally, that it has nine in Ireland. In all, therefore, Mr. Frye and his partner stretch out thirty-nine tentacles, small and great, which, I believe, rather more than the average octopus possesses.

But, says the North Kensington luminary, his business is of a totally different character to the ordinary trade monopoly. I do not quite see where the difference comes in, nor is it of much importance to the small tradesman whether he is ruined by an ordinary or by an extraordinary trade monopoly. A firm with sufficient monetary resources to carry on thirty-nine separate shops must be in a position to undersell little traders by reason of its being able to buy more cheaply. Of very little consequence is it, too, if some of its new establishments make small profits, or the profits from the older branches make up for that deficiency, whereas the small trader must put up the shutters if his business does not provide him with a living.

I have entered at some length into this matter because it has far wider application than merely to North Kensington. The system aims directly at creating monopolies by bringing the power of large capital to bear upon individual traders, who have little. Mr. Frye is no worse and no better than others engaged in the same sort of business; I am quite prepared to believe that he is a kind and liberal employer. But I say again that if I were a small tradesman I would not vote for the representative of a system of trading so directly hostile to my interests any more than I would vote for a director of a co-operative store.

A friend, who is temporarily sojourning at San Diego, in California, writes me that he finds the place rather dull. We had an earthquake, and a few rattlesnakes are beginning to come out; this is about all our news at present. Quite lively enough, I should imagine, especially the rattlesnakes. Judging, too, from the description given of the earthquake by a local paper, it must have thrilled the community pretty considerably. It happened in the middle of the night, and was a most extraordinary event, and rushed into the streets; some extraordinary spectacles presented themselves to the philosophic observer. "Miss A. wore a very handsome slumber robe, cut very short at both ends. Mr. X., an elderly gentleman, appeared in a short undershirt wholly untrussed and ungarmented; in front of every hotel and lodging-house was a show which would have made the London Gaiety troupe go out of business." Let us drop the curtain.

Some of the evidence given before the select committee on the Electric Power Bill has a considerable spice of humour. The object of the extension is to afford better railway facilities for people resident round about Walton Heath, and to cheapen the cost of their supplies. Good purposes both, and directly for the public interest. Nevertheless, Mr. Colman, a local resident, strenuously opposed the bill. On that ground? Because he lately purchased North Park "for residential and sporting purposes, and the line would be a great injury to it." Of course this advocacy of private interest in opposition to public interest comes from a wicked, selfish Tory! Not at all; Mr. Colman is a full-blooded Radical.

Our chief requests me to apologise for the non-insertion of letters warmly approving of "The People's Programme" which we gave to the world last week. So many have reached him that their publication would have necessitated the exclusion of all other matter. All the same, he is very much gratified by these countless proofs that his mind and general popular requirements accurately, and "so say all of us," thanks, dear friends, for your generous endorsement of our "little bill," which we hope to see taken up by the next Parliament, whether the one party or the other be in power.

Londoners are very quick to invent telling words from current events. Passing down Drury-lane a couple of evenings back, I came across a heated controversy between a gentleman and lady belonging apparently to the coterie of the "Penny Magazine." She made repeated efforts to scratch his face, until his patience being worn out, he belovied, "If you try that on again, bust me, if I don't serment you!" "Serment? It is cement," he retorted, "murder and bury in the Downing style. By the way, I should imagine that the diabolical monster carried that alias as an elegant synonym for 'demon.'" He was evidently given to jocularity.

Several correspondents inquire whether it would not be advisable to fill their coal cellars now that the price has fallen so largely. They need not be in a hurry; a further fall is much more probable than a rise. The trade is tremendously embarrassed by over-supply, and if consumers only hold back they will command the situation. A nervous customer, who says that he tells you he is too interested to form an impartial judgment.

MADAME.

The material which appears likely at present to take the lead for making up spring dresses is of a most extraordinary kind. It is shown in a series of pictures, and is being shown. One secret of the popularity of this material is the very wide range it takes in width, colourings, and prices, adapting itself to all requirements, while some qualities fall in with the views of the most luxurious of dressers. You can have it in varying prices from a few pence a yard up to many guineas. Many of the qualities give excellent wear, and, if well cut and made up, will turn out as smart a looking costume as you could have from the most expensive stuff.

I saw this well exemplified the other day in a very cheap tussled-up house. Now, we know that a house-made dress often means an ill-fitting bodice and badly hung skirt, and general air of something wanting, all of which may be avoided by a little painstaking, and not being in too great a hurry to get the work finished. This is a rock upon which the amateur dressmaker often splits, and the result is the result of her own handiwork that she hurries it over with invariably disastrous results.

The gown I speak of was very carefully made, and it certainly repaid the trouble taken. The tweed, as I have said before, was an inexpensive one, the colour, a kind of greenish grey, flecked with red and black. The umbrella skirt was lined throughout with grey linen. The bodice was tight-fitting, and cut away over the hips into long swallow tails at the back. It fastened down the front with small grey pearl buttons; the round neck band was of dark grey velvet, and the high-shouldered, coat-shaped sleeves and

velvet cuffs. A clever arrangement of hoops and eyes in the centre of the back of the skirt enabled the train to be made short enough to walk in comfort out of doors. The skirt was so well cut that this looping up did not make it look in the least awkward; the gown, though simple, had a most attractive air of smartness about it.

Notwithstanding the continued nipping east wind, there is a whisper of spring in the air leading one's mind to thoughts of new hats and bonnets, as well as to the burning up of old ones. Many of last year's shapes will quite pass muster for the present; picking up pieces, brushing, and re-trimming will, of course, be required to bring them up to date. Soft fancy straw bonnets, flat-shaped, with fluted brims, are still fashionable; the arrangement of the garniture is, however, somewhat different. In place of the trimming coming altogether from the back, it is now arranged to go all round the brim, as well as on the top; there are also various other pretty ways of trimming. Baby ribbon, either in silk or velvet, is immensely used now in millinery, and a charming trimming it is, possessing the satisfactory virtue of costing little, while looking well.

I have just seen a last year's bonnet made to look a triumph of millinery art. To begin with, the straw of the bonnet was good, which will always be found to pay in the long run. A good flexible straw can be pinched and twisted into the latest prevailing shapes. This particular bonnet was of black fancy straw, a small flat shape with fluted brim. Every atom of the old trimming was removed, and all the latest well known pieces of straw were put in. A new lining of black velvet was put in; then a number of bows were made with loops of baby velvet ribbon, faded colour; these little bows were placed at intervals all round the brim. On the crown of the bonnet, towards the left side, was a full rosette of the same material, and a black velvet bow. Broad strings of black velvet fastened under the chin in a made bow. It was a most becoming little bit of head-gear; no one would have known it as last winter's bonnet trimmed with bronze velvet and jet.

As white lace will be fashionable this season, it may prove a helpful hint to any of my readers who are fortunate enough to possess good white lace, to know how to clean it, no matter how soiled it may have become. Make a strong lather by shredding yellow soap into cold water, and then boiling it till dissolved. While you are preparing the lather have the soiled lace soaking in cold water. When the soap is quite dissolved, strain the lather into a large jug, and add a pinch of borax. Get a large broad-mouthed jam bottle, clean it well, and put the lace into it, then pour in enough of the lather to cover the lace; shake it well until the water in the bottle becomes discoloured, then pour it off and repeat the process until the soapy water appears quite clean. Then take the lace out and clean the bottle, return the lace and cover it with clean cold water. Shake the bottle until the soap is quite taken out of the lace, then squeeze it and roll it up in a clean cloth for about an hour. After this stretch it on a folded sheet, carefully pinning out each point. When the lace is dry take the pins, put it between sheets of soft white paper, and pass a cool iron over it. The finest lace may be safely treated in this way.

MR. WHEELER.

Several obliging correspondents have answered my late appeal for an antidote to cold feet when wheel. One recommends the wearing of a second pair of woollen stockings over the shoes. No doubt this would be efficacious, but one must have some regard for appearance. Another advises a second pair of "very thin white socks" over the others, but not over the shoes. From a third comes a testimonial to the efficacy of a certain paste, when well rubbed on the feet, care being taken to wash the hands afterwards. But does it not make the skin tender if frequently used? Judging from the constituents, I should imagine that it must have much the same effect as a mild blister. To my mind, the best suggestion that has come to hand is to make sure that there is plenty of room in the forepart of your shoes. If the toes have not sufficient space for free play, there must be some stoppage of the circulation.

Once more do I find myself in hearty agreement with Wheeler. That out spoken journal demands an authoritative pronouncement on the law regulating street traffic at "refuges." If a cyclist dares to go past on the wrong side, he is swiftly pounced upon by some over-zealous constable, even when the road was perfectly clear. But the police are apt to be stone blind to the short cut taken by swifly carriages; those lovely equines appear to be privileged to set all regulations at defiance.

If all London cycling clubs were imbued with the same patriotism as so happily characterises the West Roads C.C., the 20th Middlesex would soon have its attenuated ranks filled to overflowing. I do not know how many West Roads men figure on the muster roll of the corps, but fully a score, I should imagine, including Mr. Horstead, the popular and energetic treasurer. The West Roadsians are going steadily ahead, thanks largely to the wholesome esprit de corps which pervades the club.

A good many wheelmen and pedestrians suffer much inconvenience during hot weather from excessively perspiring feet. I know of some whose shoes get so wet as if they had been dipped in water. They will find much relief from wearing the "Vitalite" sock, a thin sole composed of vegetable fibre prepared in a special way, which is inserted between the stocking and the shoe. This excellent contrivance absorbs moisture like a sponge, and retains it, too, so that the shoes remain perfectly dry. It is also said to give warmth during winter, being a non-conductor.

It is most refreshing, by way of a change, to alight upon a metropolitan magistrate who does not regard cyclists as outside the law. This lusus nature is to be found at Wandsworth in the person of Mr. Denman, who, in a case which came before him towards the end of last week, fined an equestrian £5, and £25. costs, for nearly riding down a cyclist. Mr. Denman observed that it was a case of "a horseman's antipathy to cyclists," a feeling which still largely obtains, especially amongst those distinguished cavaliers who hire sags from livery stables. These haughty beings seem to consider that the road belongs exclusively to themselves, and that the humble wheelman has no sort of right to come between the wind and their nobility.

Grateful as I am to Mr. Denman for refusing that notion, I should have been still better pleased had he commented on the gross cowardice of equestrians who play the bully to cyclists. The latter are practically defenceless in a tournament between a man on horseback and a man on wheels there would necessarily be the same ending. As George Stephenson predicted if a "cog" came into collision with an express train. Nor does the wheelman much improve his position by jumping off and trying to get to close quarters; the horseman can always keep out of reach. It is not often that a help of stones lies convenient for use; as a rule, the dismounted man looks

about in vain for a missile. Every advantage must needs with the assailant, who, secure of immunity himself, can charge and charge again, as Chester was implored to do in a better cause.

Never was a season more acceptable than that which sprang up in the earlier part of last week. Aided by the sun, it quickly dried up the saturated roads, and made the going as good as it usually is at a considerably later date. Full advantage was taken of this happy transformation by thousands, to begin the unpleasant process of "getting back into condition," judging from the aspect of many whom I saw returning on Sunday, quite pumped out, the "first ride of the season" must have proved just a little trying to the unaccustomed muscles.

Dropping in at the Ealing workshop to have a look at a roadster safety which Cocks is building for me, I was shown a very simple contrivance for enabling two wheelers to pass through very narrow openings. All you have to do is to unscrew with the fingers a pin passing through the centre of the handle bar into the steering post, and having done this to slow round the handle bar into the same line as the saddle. When this is accomplished the greatest width of the machine is from pedal to pedal.

The improvement in the weather has not, I understand, had much stimulative effect on trade. Orders come in at about the same rate as previously, the only change being that inquiries are somewhat more numerous. I fancy that a good many would-be buyers are reading back some what sort of weather April will bring. But a major cause for slowness of business is the growing magnitude of the secondhand trade. Novices believe implicitly in this method of supplying their own requirements on the cheap, and not until they test their purchases do they learn how dear are such "bargains." I have just heard of a case in which a young man gave a £10 note to a friend for a safety, which was hardly worth as many shillings, being made of rotten material throughout.

Count Von Eulenberg has become the president of the Prussian Ministry. All the newspapers in Berlin urge that Count Caprivi should either retain his present dual position or resign altogether.

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anywhere without assistance or alien the whole of the
Writing again (nine months later), Mr. F. PAGES says
shall ever place the hands I first used your wonderful re-

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

representatives of mining communities, as well as Mr. Broadhurst, who was conspicuous by his absence, are opposed to a bill which, professes to be the outcome of an overwhelming demand on the part of the pitmen, it is perfectly clear that the alleged demand is very far indeed from being unanimous. When such an advanced Radical as Mr. John Morley consistently declines to sanction such a proposal, it is evident that opposition to it does not necessarily come from any disregard of the wants of the working man as such. Finally, the fact that Mr. Gladstone, after listening to the debate, walked out of the House without voting, is a most striking proof that the instinct of Parliamentary hands perceived the danger of committing himself to the principle of the bill. We need not enter at length into the arguments urged in favour of restricting the miner's right to work a maximum of eight hours "from bank to bank." We are quite willing to concede the general principle that eight hours is a sufficiently long average day's work for the average man. But that is a very different thing from arguing that no man ought, in any circumstances whatever, to be allowed to work longer if he chooses so to do. Before Parliament can properly be asked to sanction such wholesale interference with the right of private contract between man and man, it must be proved that the miners are powerless to obtain such reductions in the hours as they may reasonably wish to see. Now that is what the supporters of the bill cannot possibly do, for the following very good reasons. In the first place, the average length of a miner's work all over the country is now only a little over eight hours. And, secondly, wherever a reduction of time is desired, trade unionism is more than strong enough to obtain it. In short, it is absolutely impossible to show an imperative necessity for State interference in this matter.

The object, more or less openly avowed, of the promoters of the scheme has been to restrict the output of coal, and thus to keep up the rate of wages by preventing the supply from exceeding the demand. This sounds very plausible until one considers the result to colliery owners, and the action which they would take thereupon as a measure of self-preservation. If the output were diminished—as, despite Mr. Chamberlain's opinion to the contrary, it is certain that it would be—the capitalist would inevitably seek to make up for the restriction of his business by reducing the wages of the miner. Furthermore, any artificial inflation of prices would certainly lead to the introduction of foreign coal into this country. During the recent scare there has been much talk on that subject, and during the past few days the arrival of several vessels laden with German coal has been announced. Even if we were to protect the home trade by the imposition of high duties upon imported coal, that would by no means recoup us for the loss of our export trade. That trade has grown and flourished simply because foreign countries have been able to buy coal cheaper in England than anywhere else. It depends therefore, upon that essential condition that England shall continue to be the cheapest market to buy in, because of the cheapest market, and to that alone, will men come to buy. If, then, we artificially restrict our output of coal and prevent our British merchants from selling cheaper to their foreign rivals, we shall inevitably undersold. Statistics prove that the exportation of coal from the north of England has greatly diminished of late years, and if our miners and their advisers insist upon an artificial interference with the economic laws the most disastrous results must necessarily follow. Fortunately, the most dangerous attempt in that direction has just sustained a crushing defeat.

THE RAINHILL MONSTER.

In view of the crushing weight of evidence already accumulated against the Deemings, it would be idle for the [?] to affect to observe the reticence proper in the case of a person merely suspected of a crime. Everything goes to show, in this case, that justice is being done, and that the most fearful criminals of the age. Whether there is any truth in the story reported from Australia of another murder at Brisbane of the same sort as that which Deemings committed at Melbourne, it remains practically certain that this man butchered not only his wife, but also his own four children in cold blood. That was a crime to which it would not be easy to find a perfect parallel in all the awful annals of human depravity. No wonder that the public imagination at first that the White Chapel murderer had been found at last. Could two such monsters as Deemings be walking in the light of day? Surely, the earth could not contain more than one such a being upon its surface? Unhappily, it is the case that men whose crimes are not much less terrible than Deemings's are not so rare as one would fain believe them. One cannot get there is, and one only, about such discoveries as this—that the knowledge that monsters like Deemings do exist is a stern rebuke to the sentimental shriek for the abolition of capital punishment. It should not be forgotten that the discovery of the Rainhill murders was simultaneous with the outcry against Mr. Matthews for refusing to reprieve two men who had brutally murdered two others who died in defence of their master's property. We rejoice at the coincidence. We are glad that the public should be reminded, by the sudden revelation of the crimes of a Deemings,

to decide which depraved humanity will are to do, and of the supreme necessity of the one punishment that such men fear—the gallows. It is easy to talk of the abolition of the death penalty in the abstract; we should like to know what the most sentimental of the advocates of boiling would have the law do with poisoning.

THE FAMINE IN RUSSIA.
AN ASIATIC DESPOTISM.

Reuter's special correspondent, who is detailing the famine districts of Russia, describes the condition of things which prevail in the province in which Nijni-Novgorod is the capital. There has, he says, for some years been a gradual decline in the fruitfulness of the soil, accompanied by an increase in the population. The land, as the peasant says, has remained stationary, its fertility has diminished, and the number of mouths it has to feed has increased at an alarming rate. Hence the peasant has been in a chronic state of starvation for years, and is present distress is not so apparent to those who have been standing by and watching the famine as it is to the peasant, or, to the ardent reformer and intelligent observer, who sees with aching heart the gradual ruin of his country. The peasant in the goose which lays Russia's golden eggs, and he is losing slowly killed.

TAXES COLLECTED BY FLOODING.

While the peasant is gradually growing poorer the State is growing more and more rich. The despotic method employed in the province of Viatka, for instance, the governor determined to ignore the famine, and collect the uttermost farthing the tribute due. He consequently despatched the vice-governor with the police officials, accompanied by soldiers and Cossacks and several sledge-loads of birch-rod, on a tour of inspection in the villages. The simple method employed was to seize the wealthiest peasants of a village and flog them until the taxes were produced, and some cases the most merciless floggings failed to have the desired effect. There was literally no money to be got. In these villages the private property of the peasantry was sequestered, their tea-urns, their fur coats, their simple cotton clothing, their tools, their clothing, and so on, and everything was seized. These facts were told me (the correspondent says) by a solemn official, one of the wisest and most enlightened in his district; who implored me not to mention his name. "You know," he said, "the order of things in which we live. This is not a government, but an Asiatic despotism. The order is, to give the peasant no money, and then way into the British press, to make our rulers ashamed of themselves."

THE MELBA DIVORCE SUIT.

In the Court of appeal, the case of Armstrong v. Armstrong and the Duc d'Orleans came on for hearing. It was an appeal by the petitioner from an order of the president refusing to allow letters of request to issue to the Austrian tribunal.—Mr. Ham, in opening the petitioner's case, said the suit was brought by Mr. Armstrong for a dissolution of his marriage with Mrs. Mr. Armstrong, known as Madame Melba, in the ground of her adultery with the Duc d'Orleans, and the petition presented by him alleged that the adultery took place in Vienna. In consequence of this allegation inquiries were made in Vienna, and it became necessary that the evidence of the witnesses should be taken at the Hotel. On that the petitioner's solicitors took out a summons for a commission to issue to examine witnesses, and that summons was adjourned, it being alleged by the respondent that he intended taking exception to the petitioner coming to these courts at all. That was answered by the petitioner, who stated that he intended to set up an English domicile of choice. The co-respondent, however, alleged that the petitioner's domicile was either Irish or Austrian, and that question was still pending. After that the petitioner received information from his agent in Vienna, the effect of which was that it would be dangerous for any one, other than an Austrian official, to go to Vienna, and the respondent endeavoured to avail himself of the procedure, that evidence should be taken before the Austrian tribunal for the purpose of perpetuating the testimony. When the respondent became aware of such proceedings, he moved the court to restrain him. That summons came on before Justice Jones, who refused to grant the petitioner's request to set up into force of procedure other than what the English courts afforded, and the petitioner was accordingly restrained. Acting upon a suggestion that fell from Justice Jones, application was made that letters of request should issue in order that the Austrian courts might take the evidence. That came on before the registrar, who refused to adjourn the matter, but being pressed to give a decision he held that letters of request should not issue as the application was premature, the question of domicile not having been decided. An appeal was then made to the president, who upheld the decision of the registrar.—There being a question as to jurisdiction as to the petitioner's Irish domicile, the respondent's appeal was expressed opinion that that should first be disposed of before the question of jurisdiction was argued. The appeal was, therefore, dismissed with costs, without prejudice to a fresh application by petitioner after the question of domicile was settled.

THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.

The Marchioness of Salisbury on Thursday opened some additional rooms at the shelter of the Society for the Prevention of Theft to Children, in Henrietta-street, Theobalds-road. This extension has been rendered necessary by the great increase of the work in the department for the shelter for children. There was a distinguished attendance. Her ladyship was received by the Duke of Abercorn and Lord Aberdeen, and was presented to the shelter by an address of welcome by the Rev. J. Vaughan, the chaplain of the station. It was found that the society had found and alleviated the suffering of 40,000 children in one half of the country, but there was undoubtedly about the same number in the other half of the country, to whom the society had not been able to gain access; but this was not from lack of generosity. The need for the society's accommodation the society's central shelter provided was the result of the marvellous growth of the society in police, magisterial, and public confidence. Seven and a half years ago six beds were enough, while to-day the beds were barely sufficient. The visible growth of the society was great, but its hidden practical results were correspondingly wonderful. Lord William Cecil, in reply, expressed thanks for the welcome accorded to her ladyship, and hoped that the society would continue in its present successful condition.—After some observations, the new wing was formally opened.

John and Samuel Manning, twin brothers, living on the same farm, near Keasree, Tipperary, married twin sisters in 1891, both of whom died in 1891. In 1891 the brothers married twin sisters, and the twin sisters married twin brothers, and there was another double marriage.

The Bishop of Saskatchewan and Calgary has a diocese the area of which is 800,000 square miles, and as this important and attractive part of the Canadian North-west is being developed with great rapidity it is no wonder that the Bishop finds it rather a burden for his diocese.

The People.

PLACES: MILFORD-LANE, STRAND, W.C.

IN THE MIDDLE ORDER OF HANKING ARE GENERALLY TO BE FOUND ALL THE ARTS, WISDOM, AND VIRTUE SOCIETY. THIS ORDER ALSO IS KNOWN TO BE THE TRUE FATHER OF FREEDOM, AND MAY BE CALLED 'THE PEOPLE.'—*Vicar of Wakefield*, chap. 19.

THE FIGHT HOURS BILL.

A severe lesson has been, or, at all events, should have been taught to a large number of self-styled friends of the working man by the decisive defeat of the Fight Hours Bill for Miners in the House of Commons last Wednesday. That ill-considered measure was rejected by a majority of 112, only 160 members being found to vote for the second reading, against 273 who opposed it. One has to look at the names of those who took part in the debate and in the division, and also of those who, for certain reasons, remained neutral, to understand how little serious demand there is for such a measure, and what are the real motives which have prompted its promoters. When such men as Mr. Burt and Mr. John Wilson, who are both direct

THE RAINHILL MURDERS.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERIES.
IDENTIFICATION OF WILLIAMS.
LATEST DETAILS.

THE PRISONER was brought before the court at Perth for the second time in order that his identity might be sworn to and the case removed to Melbourne. The news of the revelations in England, which has been speedily devoured by all sections of the community, caused the greatest interest and curiosity to be taken in the case. An immense crowd collected outside the court-house and in the streets leading to the building, many of those present having taken up their places at an early hour in the hope of catching a glimpse of the notorious prisoner. The expectation, however, was baffled, as the accused was secretly conveyed from his place of confinement to the court-house. Long before the opening of the proceedings the court was packed to suffocation; even the bench was crowded with leading members of the Ministry, well-known members of Parliament, and prominent officials. The presiding magistrate having taken his seat, Gurney, the Perth detective who arrested the prisoner at Southern Cross, was called, and stated, in reply to questions, that Cawsey, the Melbourne detective who had been sent to Perth with the original warrant, had not yet arrived in court. The contents of the warrant were, however, recapitulated by the Attorney-General, in order that the court might be made aware of the precise nature of the charge. Mr. Haynes, the solicitor who is acting on behalf of the accused, stated that he should be supplied with an official list of all the articles which were found in the prisoner's possession at the time of his arrest, and that the inquiry should be further adjourned till the 26th inst., to enable him to inspect the warrant upon which these proceedings were taken. The solicitor acting for the Crown, addressing the court in reference to this application, said he objected to a longer adjournment than was absolutely demanded by the circumstances of the case. The presiding magistrate, after some further discussion, granted the application, and directed that a complete list of the prisoner's effects should be supplied to the Attorney-General, and that the case in which the original warrant might be produced. So intense was the popular excitement that it was considered expedient to convey the prisoner back to the goal in an omnibus preceded and followed by a strong escort of police. The utmost curiosity was shown by the throngs of people who gathered about the prisoner, but there was no demonstration or actual disorder. Meanwhile, the detective Cawsey had had the warrant which



ALFRED DEEMING.

leaving Rockhampton Deeming came to Brisbane, accompanied by a woman, and rented a furnished house in the suburb of Milton. At the time when the rent became due, both he and his companion disappeared, and all efforts to trace them proved fruitless. Inquiries since made have elicited the fact that when the landlord, after a few days, entered the house to retake possession, he found remnants of a woman's clothing in the garden.

MOVEMENTS OF DEEMING IN BRISTOL.

One of the prominent Bristol jewellers has made a statement to the representative of Reuters Agency to the effect that a man giving the name of Swanton, and answering in every detail to the description of Deeming, the alleged Rainhill murderer, visited his shop some fifteen or eighteen months ago, and selected articles of jewellery to the value of £250. He gave his name as Swanton, and for the first time by cheque. He said he was stopping at one of the principal hotels in that city. Being satisfied of the bona fides of his customer, though he was a perfect stranger to him, the tradesman allowed him to take away a valuable diamond ring worth £50 on approval, and undertook to send down the diamond ring to the jeweller, which the visitor required. During the two or three days that elapsed before the goods were sent to Bristol, the jeweller seems to have received intelligence warning him about the accused, and when Deeming returned to the shop for the other goods the jeweller discovered the ring to be a counterfeit. He then showed his customer a telegram which he had received respecting him, whereupon he at once ran away and had not since been seen by the jeweller.

IDENTIFYING THE PRISONER.

A detective has arrived at Perth, Western Australia, from Melbourne bringing with him a man named Hirschfeldt, who was a fellow-passenger with Williams on board the Kaiser Wilhelm II. on the trip out from England last November, and who now came forward for the purpose of giving evidence as to the alleged identity of the man now in custody with his former acquaintance. When brought to face to face with the prisoner Mr. Hirschfeldt had no hesitation in identifying him. During the interview the accused was perfectly cool and self-possessed. He has been kept in ignorance of the discoveries made in England since his arrest, and is still under the impression that he is only a prisoner, and that the authorities are endeavouring to obtain evidence against him. After his positive identification he admitted that he was the Williams in question, but continued to protest that he was innocent of his wife's murder, and went so far as to suggest another theory. He had, he said, quarrelled with his wife on account of her entertaining improper relations with a man, and in his belief it was this clandestine lover who had done the deed. Since his arrest the prisoner's health has undergone considerable alteration. He has lost his appetite, and become extremely restless, especially during the night-time. The prison doctor has therefore caused him to be supplied with stimulants.

STORY OF THE MILK JUG.

In addition to a large number of South African curiosities, all of which were given to young Pickering by Deeming, there is amongst the collection of the murderer's belongings a large blue and white milk jug, about which a curious story is told. Deeming gave the Pickering an order to supply him with milk from the morning of Saturday, July 25th, the day upon which his "sister" and the children arrived. The milk was duly delivered by a niece of Mr. Pickering on the Saturday and Sunday mornings. Deeming, however, which he directed that the milk should be left in the jug in the porch, and this was regularly done until the Friday. It now transpires that during this week he slept at the Commercial Hotel, and did not, therefore, require the milk. Yet at the same time he must have visited the house every day to be ordered the milk to be sent merely as a blind, as if it were required for the "sister" and her children, who were at that time cemented away under the kitchen floor of the villa.

A BARMAID'S EXPERIENCE OF THE ACCUSED.

The police have made exhaustive inquiries at the Commercial Hotel, Rainhill, with reference to Deeming's stay at that hostelry, which the barmaid, a very nicely-wrought chain-smoke to the barmaid, who is to give evidence at the adjourned inquest. This young person distinctly remembers that on the first occasion when Mrs. Deeming arrived at the hotel she was dressed in a black skirt and a loose navy blue bodice, and she wore a black velvet in appearance. She was very lacking in appearance, and she wore a black velvet dress, and took tea there, Deeming introducing her as his sister. As on the previous occasion, her departure for Liverpool was somewhat hurried. She, however, seems to have impressed the barmaid very considerably, and this young person considered that the Deemings were people of superior circumstances, that accounted for the fact that she was able to obtain so little information about them. At any rate, Mrs. Deeming was very reserved in her demeanour. On neither of her visits was Mrs. Deeming accompanied by her husband, and she was never seen to suppose that she was other than the sister which the murderer gave her out to be. Deeming himself, says the barmaid, always kept his place and behaved as a gentleman should. In conversation he was quiet and mild, and in the matter of drink showed a decided inclination to abstemiousness. He never drank more than three consecutive glasses of brandy, and these, it has been ascertained, were taken just after the murders had been committed. Deeming's excuse for this unusual indulgence was that he felt very ill, and wanted something to sweeten his throat, and he had contracted. He never, according to the barmaid, "showed himself to be out of temper."

MISS MATHER'S LAST LETTER.

Extracts have been published from the last letter written by the ill-fated Rainhill girl, Miss Emily Mather, then on the way out to Australia with her husband, Alfred Deeming. The epistle, which is addressed to her mother

at Rainhill, is written in red ink, and fills four sides of large foreign newspaper. It is headed "Indian Ocean, s.s. Kaiser Wilhelm II., November 26th, 1891." Mrs. Deeming writes in the most interesting and attractive style, tells her mother that they had entailed Albert, her husband, "The Doctor." Writing in terms of loving affection, she relates why he had gained that title. First of all, he cured a passenger of dysentery, making him up a dose and attending to him, because neither he nor the other passengers were receiving what he considered proper attention from the ship's doctor. Then he turned his attention to a poor woman who was ill with a slight brain fever, caused by the heat. He got some mustard oil and rubbed it on the woman's neck, thus allaying the fever, and curing her of the complaint. He played the woman's husband danced a jig on the deck, and, as Miss Mather put it, fairly hugged Albert for saving the life of the "old girl," as he always called her. Another very bad with prickly heat, from which the majority of the passengers suffered. He cured these, and also successfully cured a young lady who had been up five nights nursing her sick brother. Then Miss Mather proceeded to relate that, in addition to his medical qualifications, her husband was a skillful modeller, and that he filled up a lot of his spare time at his models in their cabin. But the chief thing which she mentions, for, as she put it, he "visited the sick three or four times a day, and pills, doses, and powders to suit his heart's content." He displayed much kindness and thoughtfulness also in saving tit-bits from their table to take to the sick passengers, for they were unable to eat the food which was served for them, except at a time had to eat out of one dish. The captain did not seem to relish Albert's interference, but he could not prevent it. Concluding the letter, she writes, "Albert is just now singing, 'I'll never get married any more.'" She enclosed a Christmas card painted by Deeming, showing that he had artistic tastes, and was able to paint with points and brushes. The letter is finished with a few scribbled lines, on November 27th, at Colombo, Ceylon, whence it was despatched. It was described as being "From your loving children, Emily and Albert." Similar lengthy and interesting letters had previously been written by the unfortunate couple to their friends and home both from Porto and Suva. In each of these, as well as in the third and last, she describes how happy she is, saying that she could not live without him, and was fortunate to have got such a good husband. The Wilhelm Kaiser II. arrived at Melbourne on December 15th, and the Deemings, who were travelling in the third class, were the last to leave the ship. Rainhill, saying that Emily thought it quite time he wrote, as she had written three times before, and said that they were going to start for Hong Kong on January 4th, and would write home from every port of call. His first wife was a very young girl, and of course, the murder here, it is supposed, been committed on Christmas Eve.

POSSING AS A HERO.

Samuel Mercer, a native of Rainhill, who was well acquainted with Deeming, has made a statement, in which he says:— "About July 25th at Mr. Short, landlord of the Commercial Hotel, Rainhill, he introduced Deeming to me as a man who did work for the Government. He represented himself to me as being a military man, and said he had four years' experience in the Army. He would not call himself a soldier, although he said he had been 'under fire.' Deeming showed me various weapons, including swords, knives, spears, and an assegai, which he said he had got from Zululand. He was dressed in a very handsome sword, which was adorned with silver and a band of gold, and which he said he had 'fought two hours for.'"

THE CONCEALMENT OF THE BODIES AT DINKHAM VILLA.

It is stated at Rainhill that when Deeming had dug the pit in the kitchen of Dinkham Villa a man residing in the village went into the house to see what was going on. On proceeding to the kitchen he found Deeming with his hands and knees over the spot where the bodies were found putting down the cement with his hands. The man sat down on a box and watched Deeming at work, and had alongside of him a bottle containing port wine. This incident occurred before Deeming called in the plasterers to assist him. It has also been discovered that Deeming, on the Saturday before the murders were committed, purchased a large quantity of cement. He remarked at the time that he thought it was not strong enough.

ARRIVAL OF DEEMING'S BOX AT WINDSOR.

The box which is said to have been sent by Deeming, alias Williams, the Rainhill murderer, to Plymouth, and around which has been centred a great amount of interest since the awful discoveries at Rainhill, arrived on Wednesday afternoon. Shortly after 3 o'clock Supt. Kayleigh, the Rainhill murderer, went to the goods station of the London and North-Western Railway, Hutchinson street, and by that time the box had arrived. It was conveyed on a train which arrived at 4 o'clock, and was one of deal, and is 3ft. 7in. long and 3ft. 2in. wide. The depth is 1ft. 5in. It was very securely fastened, and a hammer and chisel had to be brought into requisition when the box arrived in the superintendent's private office. The box attracted little or no attention, being being conveyed to the police station, although the streets were crowded with pedestrians at the time.

A DIFFICULT TASK.

Det. Grashy, who brought Deeming home

from Monte Video on the charge of false pretences at Hull, has given an account of his experiences.—"It was not until they had been on the voyage a week, and Deeming found he had got his master in the detective, that he settled down. The master did not much move his clothes or turn into a bath at night, but placed himself on a chair or settle near the door, which he looked. The prisoner would at first suddenly throw himself into his bunk, and the detective would frequently find him watching him, though a moment or two before he had appeared to be asleep. He resorted to various means to induce him to sleep for a time, while the latter obtained a bath and some rest. Usually they spent a time on deck during the day, and the prisoner at first sought to be there at night also, and especially when they touched at ports of call, but this was not allowed. He resorted to various means to induce him to sleep for a time, while the latter obtained a bath and some rest. 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North London.
EXTRAORDINARY CHARGE OF ABANDONING
A CHILD.—Ada Marcham, 13, servant, of Templeton-road, Tottenham, was charged before Mr. Haden Corser with unlawfully abandoning and exposing an infant child aged 5 months, so as to endanger its life, leaving it in the front garden of 2, Townsend-road, and Ellen Baxter, who gave her address as 2, Townsend-road, and Mary Ann Drake, 37, married woman, living in Stroma-terrace, Seven Sisters-road, were charged with having been concerned together in aiding and abetting the first-named prisoner in leaving the child in the front garden. It was deposed that at 8 o'clock on Friday morning they were passing Townsend-road, when she saw a young child lying on the gravelled pathway between the front door and the garden gate. They knocked at the door, but although some one could be heard inside they could get no answer, so they thrust the child to the police station.—Sergt. Gl N said about the prisoner Baxter, who was the mother of the child, came to the station and asked for the child. She said, "It is my child, and the father lives where it was put. He turned me out and the child out of the house last Sunday, and I was waiting for him to come to the house this morning, but I was not aware that it was going to be left in the front garden. I was not at Mrs. Drake's house when the child was sent away." Witness found the following letter pinned to the child's cape:—"Sir, Mrs. Baxter says that she will not come home until she sees me, but she will not come home until I have told her the truth. I am a girl, and I will not have her believe me must go to one of her friends, as Mr. Drake will be home tonight or to-morrow night.—Yours, &c., MRS. DRAKE.—P.C. 159 N was sent out to make inquiries in the case, and he discovered Mrs. Drake had got a young man to write the letter, and that she was not going to see him, and that she had sent the girl Marcham, who acted as a servant, to the child to Mr. Baxter's house. Not retu-

Greenwich.
THE MURDEROUS ATTACK ON A WIFE
George Tomlinson, 23, of 20, Hamden

Dr. Danford Thomas held an inquest on the body of Emily Squires, 36, wife of a house painter living at Affleck-street, Pentonville. On the 12th inst. deceased went out with

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[illegible]

convention. I do not believe to say it like the book.

**THE MOST STRIKING STORY
OF THE CENTURY.**

THE COTTON KING.
THE COTTON KING
—
CHAPTER I.
THE COTTON KING.
THE scene opens at Oldham. The streets are crowded with noisy operatives. Groups of grumbling men and starving women stand upon the pavements, discussing the strike and exchanging dark and ominous looks. Hard times are before them. The doors of every mill in the town are closed. Thousands of homes and tens of thousands of spirits

It is not an ordinary strike. Masters and operatives have seen a grievance in common. The work was stopped because there was clash, but because the cotton supply is so full on short. A certain daring and indiscreet supply to the Liverpool Exchange had, as it appears, "mutilated" the market and raised its price. The market had returned to bay. Shirley Keave's was the alleged cause of all—Shirley Keave, the redoubtable Cotton King. As in a matter of fact, the most vigorous of Oldham men have had their say, and Fred Burke—for no other reason than that he has spent two years in America, and therefore has some reason supposed to know all about commercial rings—is appointed to go to Liverpool and appeal the great COTTON KING.

CHAPTER II.
THE COTTON CORNER.

It was not when that Dorothy Harris, the daughter of Cotton King, had need to enter her father's office. The multitude of silk-hatted brokers of the Liverpool Exchange was enough to embarrass any pretty and sensitive girl venturing into their midst, and she, the young and sweet, could hardly have been expected to run the gamut of so many intricate places. But to-day there was reason enough, and speed the ordinal recollects.

The morning newspaper has recently informed her of what her father over breakfast had solicited to tell—namely, that Othman and Blackburn Cotton Mills had been burned, and that Miss Harris, the daughter, had suddenly been thrown of work, and, more than all, that her father himself was ill.

Richard S. Harris, of the firm of Shilley Reave and Co.,

"Ah, Dorothy, my child!" he exclaimed, springing lightly to his feet and smoothing his already rumpled hair to unexpected visit. "Well, going shopping, I suppose. Want some money? How much would you

"No, I don't want money, father, and I'm not going out stag," said she with stately dignity. "No," I am sure," he said, "you have heard the truth about these men who work up the hair on your neck. I have learned by this time that our common enemy is the devil. It is shameful, father! Only think of twenty thousand dollars' worth of goods, and of the thousands of poor, honest, unoffending men and women starved through their pitiless greed for wealth. It is shameful! I am too heartless, father, and too calm over the distress; I have refused."

"You are," said him, Dorothy, and that is the source of my success," he said, turning to his telegrams.

"I will tell you what no one else in Liverpool yet knows," continued her father. "That the factories will every one be working full time before the end of this week."

"That is true," said Dorothy.

"I am glad," said her father, "that you are not one of the million

had judged the future more wisely." Mr. Harris continued:—
 "But it appears that I am the only man in the nation who can see more than an inch in advance of him. If I am right, it is true, is an exception. He's all right. The public all declare that I have made a foolish mistake, and the public are all wrong. To-morrow, perhaps, their eyes will be opened. They will learn that the man who judgment they doubted has achieved, single-handed, what other over-seers has attempted since the days of Mr. Ranner."
 "Then you are not retimed? You will not be a bankrupt at the end of a week?"
 "Retimed? Bankrupt?" returned Mr. Harris, rising. "No, I AM A MILLIONAIRE."

CHAPTER III.

Dorothy, satisfied in his mission, took up her parcel prepared to leave.

"The lady has collapsed, as I predicted," said Father. "The spinners were compelled to fulfil their trusts. They could not afford to wait for the new set. They were bound to buy either from me or Mother. Yesterday, to frighten me, they closed their mills. For this afternoon they are all selling humble pie. They are grateful to me, and I am glad to supply all my customers." Do you understand the position?"

"Yes," said Dorothy; "but what about the poor hovel you call them—the men who have sold to you what they haven't got."

"The 'hears,' my dear, have burnt their noses; they could not fulfil their promises. They must, therefore, pay me for the goods they have not delivered. I have sold to you 1000 yards of muslin, and I have not a yard of muslin left."

"That man my husband!" exclaimed Dorothy with indignation. "Then you desire me to marry him?"

"Be calm, dear, be calm!" said her father, peevishly. "What objection do you offer?"

"The foremost of all objections, father—I do not him!" she cried.

"You prefer that fellow Walter Marshall, I suppose? poor shipper's daughter without the shadow of a prospect."

"You were only a poor clerk yourself once, father," retorted Dorothy, going close to her father's face. "Marshall is a fortune teller, and he will make good his wealth."

"I don't it, my dear. It is the one thing I live aiming having a marriage settlement drawn up leaving you my possessions on the condition that you marry Fanny Rotherham. Refuse to marry him, and you shall not inherit."

That would be another example of your heartlessness, murmured Dorothy; "I tell you I do not wish to marry I hate Frank Rotherman."

At that moment the door entered from without, and Frank Rotherman himself entered the room. Seeing Dorot he took off his immaculate suit hat.

"Ah, Miss Dorothy! You are so handsomely exclaiming Dorothy took no notice of his presence, but smiled mechanically, with her beautiful hair in the air.

She little knew the murderous mischief that was brewing

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BUY IT AND SEE FOR YOURSELF.

BY LARRY LYNX

The first racing season opened under the auspices of auspices at Lincoln on Monday last. If horses were not as fit as they could be made, it was the fault of the winter, that lingered so long in the back of spring, and of those who had said horses under the charge of the honours of the meeting fell lame. Mr. Blundell Maple, who carried off the first of Minting's progeny to sport silk in the Brookley Stakes with Minting Queen, the first of Minting's progeny to sport silk in public, who only cost her spirit owner 500*g*s. at the Newmarket sale last year, and the first big handicap of the year with the same, that stout, shaggy, black-bay colt, who has thus broken the spell which has hung over three-year-olds in the Lincolnshire Handicap since Tomahawk won 4*st*. 4*lb*. on his back, won in 1874, redounds greatly to the credit of Minting's sire that Minting Queen, a blaze-faced mare with two white hind stockings, one of the best and lengthiest sort, with splendid action, though so true a runner, that she has been named the "Brookley lot, with one remarkable exception a level one all round, got away to splendid start, and ere 100 yards had been galloped Minting Queen had her field at mercy. She never came back to them, at Woodburn took her right away, the filly winning so easily at last from Lady Kendal as Pink that it was hard to guess her value as she had in hand or at what value to assess the

To return, however, to the first day racing at Lincoln. To Mr. Lowth as owner, to Enoch as trainer, a credit to Watts as jockey, belong the first and the best season, in the series of Lincoln to who was far from cherry ripe, was enabled by his class to dispose of Mortmaine and others. As Workington was a warm favourite, backers drew "first blood." Despot, who won the Northern Welter a year ago, was unequal to the task of repeating that feat, and, with the best fagged and flustered of the race, he stumbled and tumbled below the distance. This collapse left the race to the despised Creet Hampton, whose light weight got him home from the evergreen old Horton. Then Chiliperie, having, after a neck finish with Creet, polished off his field in the Carbol Selling Plate, was bought for £180. Of the horses who shared the starter the Bathany Plate, Poussin and the Irish trained Kabonga were best backed, while Simon Renard went in demand. The latter ran once without any luck behind Florio in a Maiden race at the Newmarket Sale. October meeting, has paid for keeping his back with an incision from the jockey, who came cleverly from L. Henry, whose bid for victory in this race foreshadowed the bold show made by Acrobat in the Lincolnshire Handicap on Wednesday. With the triumph of Theasalan over Esmé and Collesie in the Chapin Stakes, and the flooring of a good four-year-old gelding, the new star from Slater to Celery, the opening day came to an end. Harking once more, the first lot of two-year-olds was seen on at the Tathwell Plate, and, if no bright lot, Gay Polly, the winner, a daughter of St. Gatien and Polaris, proved herself an indomitable stayer, as stamin and got her name from Sister to Celery, the only un-named horse that ran at Lincoln. Lord Roslyn should see that this fill given a name.

With no clashing from Plampton, the suits of which meeting call for no comfort from this pen, there was, as may be imagined, a big attendance on the Carbine on the day that the Lincolnshire Handicap was raced for. Before the race Cuttles who went so badly in the wagering at last end of last week as to cause me to take notice in him, and had come a wattle in the market on Tuesday, had a money laid out on him, and in a few twenty-five he was, with Woolsthorpe, second favourite to Clarence, whose admission would not be stalled off. To antic matters, I may as well say that Cuttles, who was not fit as a repro disappointed the expectations of all friends, and, never really formidable, was only to finish fourth. His horse proved to be a Taylor's sheet and he had cleaned out Coronanda in a trial, and the latter was scratched.

I will cut a long story short, however. field was despatched at the second attack and Link Boy, in the centre, made with Dazle, Kentigern, Clarence, Derby hero Sainfoin, Detective, Ace and De Bears well up. Then fol-

The interest in the big race quite dwarfed excitement in the others. Master Brew scored again in the Mile Selling Plate for a new owner, Mr. Moncrieffe, who bought it for \$200,000; and Golden Garter proved his field of five, and brought off an even money chance in the Welbeck Plate. In another triumph for Perry Peck. In the Lincoln Plate odds were bet on M. Butwick, but the Duke of Portland's two-year-old is no flyer, and had to succumb to Queen of Navarre. Bella accounted for the Gauby Selling Plate; and Ben Wyriss, in good finish in the Queen's Plate was the musical Bransdale, won that two miles

From Lincoln racing men sped across country to Liverpool, where fine weather and another good day's sport opened the meeting at Aintree under happy auspices. With his weight Prince Frederick, the champion hurdler, carried two many runs for his part in the Liverpool Hurdle Handicap, and was followed home by Worldly Wren who thus handsomely supplemented his victorious debut a week ago. Mr. Maple's marvellous run of luck continued, and Scarborough won the United Kingdom Hurdle. Prince Alfred came off the Priests' Plate, and Cadeby, another of his smart young Sarabands, again accounted for the Molyneux Stakes. Philadelphia, a 5 to 1 chance, proved the best of the two-year-olds who sported skill in the March Stakes, but Royal Bait, who displayed his leg more disappointingly in the Abbeystead Steeplechase, was as never at any time could he raise gallop, finishing last of all to the five-year-old Kilbarry. The Hoyalke Hunt Steeplechase furnished us with another proof that Wren is no longer the only champion. Not is no longer the only champion. Not is the once champion chaser made a very successful exhibition of himself.

Both the Oxford and Cambridge crews have arrived on the Thames, and already conflicting opinions are legion. There is no doubt, however, that the Oxford crew are sitting under the race to be rowed in a few days for which they would win. They pull in better form, with better time and swing, and the home critics have evidently been too optimistic regarding them. On Wednesday the pleased most people in the city were the trial of the "trial" which they rowed in 51min. 2sec., and at the same time they found most favour with metropolitan rowing men. On the other hand, Cambridge are a nice level lot, and on their two days' outtings were voted a sterling crew who had a deal to learn, and this is the only crew in the country which Elia has so far not pleased everybody, but those who hypercritical should not be in too great a hurry to forget his gallant fight last year. As matters stand at the time of writing, it is possible Oxford may get stale while Cambridge improves. On Wednesday the Cambridge crew made disastrous circumstances, and a head wind and tide, also rowed a capital performance. Their time was 51min. 40sec.; also

The unexpected always happens in the ball field. This is more noticeable in the month of January. In the first round of the West Bromwich Albion just scrambled through the first round of the competition on the Oval, having all the luck on their side when they defeated a team of Old Westminster weakened by many absences through influenza. Their display at the Oval on January 12th was so good that nobody would have been surprised if they had sustained a score reverse in their next match, which was against Blackburn Rovers at West Bromwich. The seeming certainty for the cup-holder did not come off, and West Bromwich again triumphed, this time with a three to two victory at the Oval on Sheffield Wednesday. The match commenced the memorable series of games against Notts Forest. Twice the two drew at a goal apiece, and then at the time of asking, and aided by a snowstorm West Bromwich won by six goals to two. Meanwhile, Aston Villa had been beaten at home by a three to one beating. Henson T. Darwen, Wolverhampton Wanderers, most notable of all, Sunderland. This formance, followed by a score of twelve to two against Accrington in a League match was sufficient to establish the Villa men as strong favourites.

Well, we know now that they beaten. How did it happen? First of all, Aston Villa held their opponents cheaply, whilst West Bromwich Albion, in a scant hope of victory, commenced with grim determination to do or die. The desperate resolve gained them their first goal, but the Villa defence was not so easily won. Warner and all the other Villa men taking by surprise, and did not know what was often happens when confidence sustains a rude shock there was a complete revulsion. The men lost all confidence, and played in incoherent ragged fashion. West Brom on the other hand, maintained their position and won. Their defence was stout and their forwards were just good enough. It was a thoroughly interesting game and provided a most useful lesson. The Villa men have been very unpopular in Birmingham to

It may be of interest to state that attendance was a best on record for a ball match at the Oval. The number of who paid for admission was 29,210, while estimated that there were, including those (who are admitted free at the Oval), representatives, members of the Surrey and others, quite 3,500 present who did pay, making a grand total of 37,710. A gates £1,487 was taken, £145 had been heviouly paid for tickets, and the surplus yielded £125, the total receipts amounting roughly to £1,750.

The League matches played on Saturday had no important bearing on the ship of the combination, although Sunderland succumbed to Derby County, their chances of passing Preston North End would have been lessened. As it was, they scored the only goal gained in the match.

won one of the stiffest games they have played this season. Blackburn Rovers not only beat a weak team of Stoke, and Everton defeated Accrington. Everton may now make a close fight with Aston Villa for fourth position.

We do not always see the great professional teams at their best when they come to town. Londoners are liable to a demoralising effect upon them. Preston North End did not do anything like their proper form against the Corinthians on Monday. Had they done so they would not have been beaten by four goals to love. The amateurs, however, were a very strong lot, and quite good enough to play the North End to a draw, or any other club at their best, in a very close game. Tuesday's match at Finsbury, instead against Royal Arsenal was even worse so far as Preston was concerned. Still, it is a good thing that Royal Arsenal, who did play a good game, were able to get so near to victory. It was a very good thing for them, a moral stimulus of a big victory. They had the assistance of Woods, of the Stoke Guards in goal, and this soldier is one of the best goal-keepers in the south. A draw of the goals each with Preston North End will be Arsenal a lot of good.

There are but few Rugby matches in the south last Saturday, as most of the big clubs have finished the season. Blackheath has a match with Kewyn Park, whom they found harder to beat than they anticipated. In the first half nothing was scored, but Ross Park were assisted by a high wind. Suddenly Blackheath were seen to get the advantage, and won by a goal and 2 tries nil. Old Merchant Taylors have maintained their form consistently through the season and on Saturday wound up with a draw game against London Scottish, a good performance. Middlesex Wanderers beat Slough, Epsom, and Wokingham. Wokingham, Epsom, and Wokingham drew with Old Pauline.

JUMPING FROM AN ELECTRIC CAR

An action was brought at Londonderry Assizes, before Mr. Justice Johnston an jury, to recover £2,000 damages, by Mrs. H. wife of a draper in Halifax, against the Giant's Causeway and Portrush Electric Tramway, for personal injury.—Mrs. S. was touring with husband and three sons, who were on the electric car, when she saw another car approaching on the same line. She jumped, broke her arm, and was unconscious for three weeks, and was detained in Ireland six weeks. She was largely deprived of her hearing and mental power, and sometimes almost insane. The medical evidence produced showed that she had been severely injured, and that there was strong probability that mind would give way.—The defence was tributary negligence by jumping from car, those who kept their seats being injured. There was a collision, but the impact was slight.—Dr. Fraill, chairman of the company, proved the great power of the car, and the collision—this prevented serious collision.—The jury awarded £4,000 damages.

A BURGLAR'S LEAP.

At the West Ham Police Court, John 51, a hatterman, giving evidence on a Bow-street, Poplar, whose head was bound with surgical straps, was charged with stealing himself in the Bootmakers' Arms Victoria Dock-road, with intent to do therein, and with burglariously breaking from the premises.—The Bootmakers' Arms was closed at the usual hours, but did not lock, and Mrs. Hawes retired about half-past 11 o'clock in the morning. Hawes was aroused by a noise in the room, and, calling her husband, the two followed man who went into the club-room on the same floor. When they got into the room, however, the man had disappeared, and a window of the room was open. Mrs. Hawes called to the prisoner on the pavement, when a constable came the prisoner was found to be covered with blood, he having sustained wounds on his head.—Prisoner now said he remembered nothing about the occurrence and was Remanded.

A STEAMER STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.
Capt. Calvert, of the Allan Line steamer, Prussian, on arriving at Greenock from Boston, reported that on the evening of 8th inst., when the steamer was one day and a night out, a flash of lightning struck the mizzenmast, stripping away about 12ft. of the timber, and setting fire to some hay which was being stowed on board.
The fire was quickly extinguished. An unusual occurrence caused considerable consternation on board the ship.

SCENE IN A CHAPEL.
John Bonnett (Gow) was announced by the Croydon Police Court by Charles Bonnett, riotous conduct at the Iron Chapel, Streptom-road, Croydon.—Mr. Edridge, for prosecution, stated that the defendant for many years been a member of the month Brethren fraternity, who conduct services in this chapel. Some time since brought a charge against another member and it was investigated by the magistrates. The defendant denied against the defendant. He then sent in his resignation, which was accepted on March 1st, 1891. On Sunday morning last he thrust himself upon the congregation engaged in the act of taking communion, caught hold of the bread, crumbled it up and scattered it. He then turned the wine round side down, and spilt the contents. A congregation now asked why was that the defendant should stand over to keep the peace to stay away from the church.—Mr. Chas. Bonnett, a trustee of the church, said that some time ago the defendant sent in his resignation, which was accepted. Since he had attended once or twice and sat at the table with the strangers.—The Defendant: I have nothing to say. I am a child of God and mean to stay. Mr. Edridge: I mean to say that the Defendant cannot so arrange matters.—The Chairman: If he will apologise and be bound over to keep the peace and stay away from the chapel.—Defendant: I will apologise to the congregation, but not to Mr. Bonnett. I will also promise to keep the law but rather than be bound over I would rather take its course.—The case was adjourned to Monday to see if defendant kept his promise.

A RECTIFICATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF "OUR PEOPLE."

Sir,—My attention has been directed to the account of the 20th inst. of our operations at Elstree on the preceding evening, in which you say "four sergeants under Serat-maj. Clarke, of the City of London Engineers were captured in return at the hands of the Company of the London Rifle Brigade." You allow me to say that this statement is entirely incorrect; firstly, because the representatives of the London Rifle Brigade are not in the City of London; and, secondly, because none of us was with the main body of sergeants under Serat-maj. Clarke. The party to which we were attached comprised, inter alia, all the scarlet-coated sergeants present, and operated on an entirely different front at some distance from the main body of the Brigade. I am, therefore, and not one of that party was ever captured by the enemy—that is, the London Rifle Brigade.—Yours, &c.,

J. J. RICHARDS.

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A COMPROMISE.
ate suit, Parnell (O'Shea int

vening's V. Wood and another (Steele) as others intervening, Farwell and others cited came before Mr. Justice Jeans in the Probate Court on Thursday. Sir Charles Russell, Q.C., Mr. Indewick, Q.C., and Mr. Seagrave appeared for the plaintiffs; Messrs. Atkinson, for Mr. Wood, Q.C., and Mr. Edward Ross, for the defendants; the Solicitor-General, Mr. Tindal Atkinson, and Mr. Ross appeared for Mrs. Anne Courage and her Coheirs; intervenors; Sir H. James, Q.C., Mr. McCall, Q.C., and Mr. Gully were for Mrs. Steele and Mrs. Chambers, intervenors. Mr. Scrutton appeared for Mrs. Mary Wood, Mrs. Morris and Mr. Lewis Coward, Capt. O'Shea, Gen. O'Shea, and Miss Carran O'Shea.—Sir C. Russell said he was glad to say that what might have been a very protracted litigation had been ended by agreement between the parties, so that he had no work to do. He asked the judge to ask him lordship to desist, so that he had nothing to say about the jury. The Judge (to the judges) said: "I know what that means (laughter).—Sir C. Russell said they proposed to prove the last will of Mrs. Ann Maria Wood made by Messrs. Faithfull and Faithfull."

the will being witnessed by Mr. Pym of that firm, on the 7th March, 1898. They did not intend to ask his lordship to pronounce probate of the will, but to pronounce probate of the interests of children involved, and the parties had under consideration. They asked that lordship would give them an early day for the discussion of the matter in chambers. When that had been gone through and test had been arrived at they would ask his lordship to pronounce probate. That was the substance of the evidence of Mr. Pym in the case, and then ask that the question of probate should be reserved.—Sir Richard Webb said he appeared for Mr. Charles Page Wood, Sir E. Wood, and the young members of the family. He was extremely glad that his lordship had given them time to agree upon these terms, for it had saved an inquiry which would have been of a very painful character. He was instructed to say that these terms had been arrived at to avoid such an inquiry, his lordship agreed to the terms proposed by Sir Charles Russell it would be satisfactory to all the parties represented.—The judge said he was very glad he had been able to give counsel an opportunity of arriving at a compromise, and he was glad of the saving of very great expenditure of time. He thought the course proposed by Sir Charles Russell an easy one to follow, and that it would be no difficulty in carrying out details of it. He was ready to take formal evidence and would defer pronouncing probate until the details of the arrangements provided for the interests of the children had been before him in chambers. If convenient for the parties, he would then make an appointment for next Tuesday.—Underwick said if his lordship would kindly see Sir Charles or himself, or some other counsel in the case, a day might be named. The Judge said he would see any of the parties. He had no doubt that the court would be satisfied with the course proposed by Sir Charles Russell. Then your lordship will charge the order for trial by special jury and take the evidence of Mr. Pym. The Judge: Yes.—Mr. Pym said he was a member of the firm of Messrs. Faithfull, Faithfull. He prepared the will of Mr. Wood, dated March 7th, 1898. He was a partner in the firm, and the will was signed in his presence and by clerks. The will showed to him was the last will of his firm had been solicitors for the Wood family for many years. At the time the Wood made the will she was of sound mind.—Sir C. Russell: That is all I propose to do.—His lordship then left the bench, the proceedings ended.

SUNDAY PLAYS AT A RADICAL CLUB

LIABILITY OF THE AMATEURS.

In a Divisional Court of Queen's Bench Thursday, before Baron Pollock and Justice Smith, Mr. Moreton Smith appeared in the case of French v. Theobald and others in support of an application for judgment on an action brought by Mr. French, the dramatist, against the members of the Bethnal Green Radical Club, which learned counsel said appeared to be held on Sundays. Both members and strangers were, it was alleged, entitled to enter the club on paying one penny, and to see and hear the amateur dramatic performance. On the Sundays in June, two copyright plays, "Written in Blood" and "Woodcock's Little Game" were formed. The action was for an injunction and for penalties. There was a second action against a man and a woman who had been the various defendants, and took down in shorthand the words of the text and then advertised to supply them, for an injunction to restrain him from suppressing and multiplying these plays, and an injunction and penalties of 40s. each were claimed against the members of the club. Mr. Justice Smith said: "I see that in one of these plays there has been as many as thirty performances of a play called 'Jane.' Do you mean to say you want 40s. for each of these performances against each of the defendants? £60 in each case?" Mr. Moreton Smith said: "Yes, my lord." Baron Pollock said: "It (Laughter.) Mr. Moreton Smith: we want it known that we can get judgment in these cases, as this infringement is a common thing at these clubs, and the Collier is making a regular trade of staging unpublished plays.—Their lordships ordered for payment and costs for the plaintiff."

BREACH OF PROMISE CASE

In the Queen's Bench Division on Tuesday, Mr. Willoughby Williams appeared for Baron Colclough and the defendant, in support of a motion for judgment in the case of Cohen v. Gurnberg, an action for damages for breach of promise of marriage. The parties had agreed to be married and placed £500 in the bank as a nest egg. However, the defendant afterwards broke off engagement, and the plaintiff sued for damages. There was no defence, and judgment for judgment was given for that £400 and the £500 paid into the bank for the plaintiff's property, and for an orderable her to withdraw that sum. Lordships gave judgment for plaintiff's amount of damages to be assessed by a sheriff.

[illegible]

Street Police Court in reference

the charge against Walter Selwyn for complicity in the robbery of bonds in transit from London to New York, and Frederick Pemberton Peach has been already committed for trial on the charge of conspiring to obtain the sum of £890 for George Willis Sears, upon the security of a number of the bonds, which, having been cancelled by the Ottoman Government, were consequently the property of the bank. Mr. S. J. G. Jones, solicitor for the prosecutor, Mr. S. John Womner, solicitor for Selwyn, and Mr. Scarlett, barrister for the prisoner, were present. Mr. Scarlett, however, was defended.—On entering the dock Selwyn, regarding the advice of his counsel, proceeded to address the magistrate. He complained that he was not being treated fairly, and claimed that the magistrate was not bound to go to God but that myself thirty years ago. But what I have to complain of is that the two ladies at Eastbourne are the two witnesses who could show I am not Archibald Herbert Melville, being kept back by the prosecution. Archibald Herbert Melville lodged with a certain Mrs. Maynard, and was killed on the night of January 1892. I say, sir, that I am that man, but I know him and Peach, have had transactions with them both. I appeal to you, sir, to have these ladies brought forward. I ask, in the name of justice, that Insp. Abernethy should give you the full text of the letters in cypher which were sent to the Post Office, and the copies from the Post Office. They will fully establish my innocence.—Prisoner proceeded to explain that in a transaction with a banker he took, by chance, the name of Percy Melville, in that way brought suspicion upon himself. He was commenting upon the fact of the case when Mr. Maynard was killed, and usually he would go to further so long as a witness represented by counsel.—Further defence was then taken.—Mr. J. C. Ver was then called.—At the request of Mr. Scarlett the prisoner was allowed to leave the dock and take a seat on the witness bench before Mr. Verrall entered the dock. He asked that the witnesses be identified to him. Mr. Verrall said he had business transactions with Selwyn. When asked to pick him out, he scrutinized everybody in court, and then, passing the prisoner, stopped opposite a gentleman seated next to the prosecutor, and made the remark that, with that person in mind, he would not be like Selwyn. Verrall then returned to the box, and the clerk was making a note on the deposition his inability to identify the prisoner, when Selwyn sprang up excitedly and cried out that he was the man, and that he had seen the witness before in this court. He then loudly asserted that he had heard the voice as that of the man he was referring to.—Remanded.

SUICIDE OF MR. A. GORING THOMAS
The body of a gentleman who was killed in a train entering West Hampstead Station, yesterday night, has been identified as the Mr. A. Goring Thomas, the musical composer. Shortly after 6 o'clock, as a train from Willemsden was approaching the station he was seen to throw himself from the platform on to the line. A man standing endeavored to save him, and actually saved his coat, but he was either unconscious or fell before the driver of the engine stopped, tried to pull up, but was not successful, doing so in time. Mr. Thomas' arms were broken, and he also received frightful internal injuries. The identity was found under the first car of the engine, was exhumed, and taken to the mortuary, where it was subsequently identified. Mr. Thomas was on a visit to his brother at Marlborough Hill, St. John Wood, about a mile from the scene of occurrence. It is stated that he has recently suffered from mental depression, and that the youngest son of late Mr. F. Thomas, of Rotton Park, Eastbourne, and was born on November 1851. He was educated at Haileybury College and was intended for the Civil Service, but his health failing he had to go to Madras in 1870 for three winters. On returning to England in 1871, Mr. Thomas, then thirty-one, devoted his musical work seriously, and which had up to that time been discouraged. He received his musical education under Emile Durand, professor in the Conservatoire at Paris, with whom he studied privately for more than two years, commencing in May, 1874. He came to London, where he studied three years, with Arthur Sullivan and Mr. Prout, at the Royal Academy of Music, twice gaining the medal for composition. He wrote an act on Moore's "Light of the Harem," which was performed by students, and led to a commission being given him to write an act for the "Drury Lane," which he produced at Drury Lane in March, 1883, great success. It was produced in Germany, Cologne in the same year, and at Hamburg in 1885. Previous to this (says "Men of Time") his most important works given to the public were "The Sun Worshipers," a drama, written for the "Drury Lane," and "The Song of the Lark," a libretto by J. Sturgis, entitled "Nadeshda." This was also produced at Drury Lane, with Madame Valleria in the title rôle. Mr. Thomas also produced a comic opera in three acts, and has published three volumes of English and English songs and duets, as well as detached pieces.

INQUEST AND VERDICT.

At the inquest, which was held at Hampstead Provident Dispensary, Mr. Thomas, brother of deceased, of 40, Borough Hill, St. John's Wood, stated that deceased had been ailing for some time. His last address was 32, Wimpole-st. The deceased was single. He had been in health and under medical care for some time. He had given them great anxiety about his mental condition. He suffered from depression. They had been told that he was not well, and they had feared that he might do something rash. On Sunday, he had shared their fears. The deceased had a brother and a friend, a medical man, Dr. Walker, and later on the witness heard of his death. Dr. P. stated that he had known deceased for three weeks, and he was working with him, being fully aware of his mental and bodily state. He was to be a companion and medical man to the deceased. He knew that he was likely to be in a similar condition, times deceased suffered from severe depression. On Sunday afternoon, half-past 2, after luncheon, they left

borough-road and went to West Hampstead after which they went for a walk across the fields. The deceased died of a sudden apoplexy. The train arrived at West Hampstead Station, intending to go home by train. It went on to the platform. Witness saw the deceased for a few minutes, and whilst again towards him the train came in. The witness could get up to him deceased in time off the platform to see the engine. The train stopped-deceased was found in one of the carriages, and witness saw he was dead.—Frank Hollington, a postman, stated that he was on the platform, when he saw deceased, running to the edge of the platform, run to the edge of the platform and returned a verdict that the deceased committed suicide whilst of unsound mind.

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